ECLIPSE INTERNATIONAL
$1.50/USA • $2.25/CAN

AREA 88

by KAORU SHINTANI

BIWEEKLY

Mercenary Monsters
Streaming Across
The Burning Desert Sky

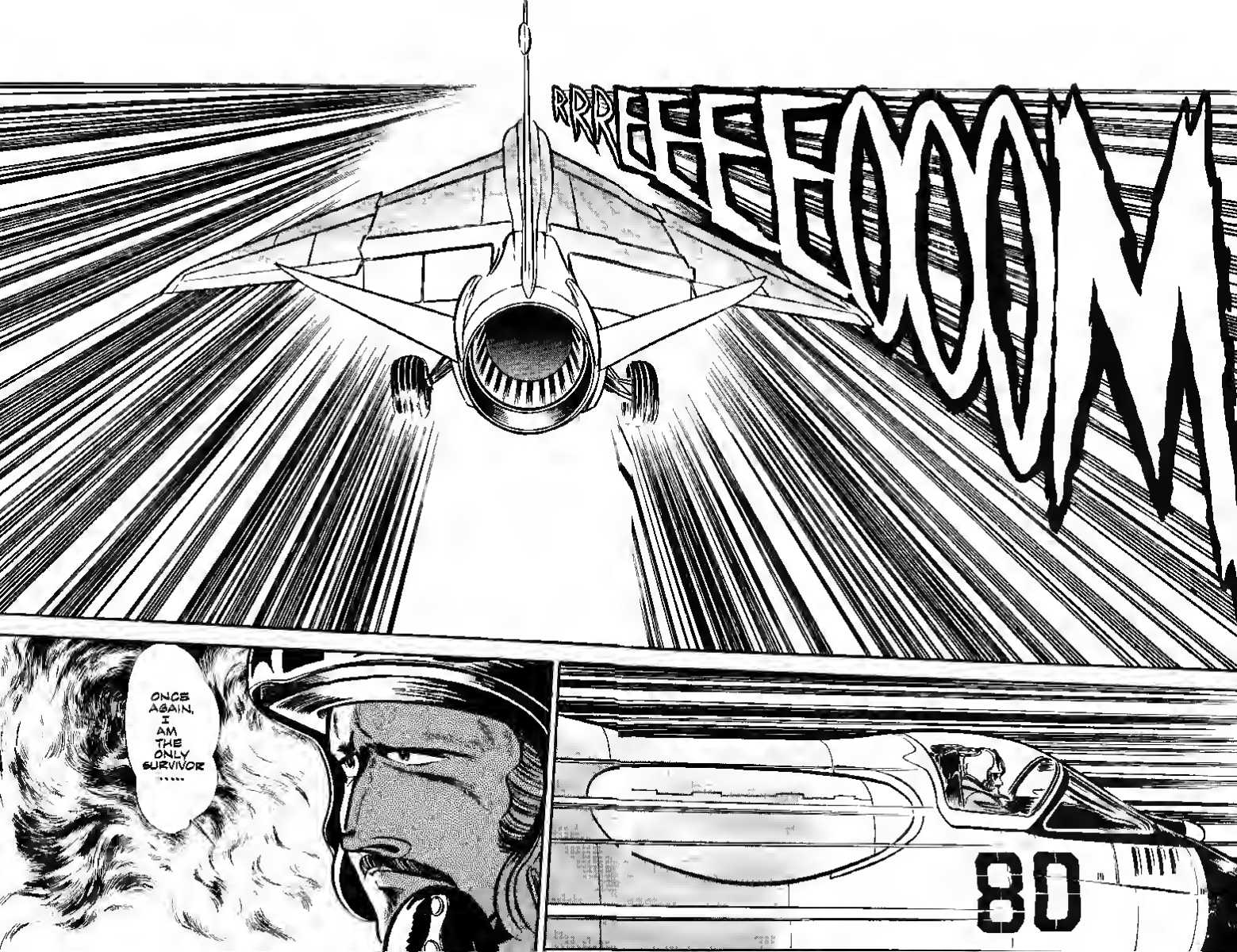
2

VIZ COMICS

MISSION TWO:

THE MAN NAMED BORIS

SCANNED BY HIKARU


RRR
EEE
OOO
M
ONCE AGAIN, I AM THE ONLY SURVIVOR .....
80

SLAM
HEY, WASN'T THAT THE GUY WHO WAS THE ONLY SURVIVOR IN THE 4TH ATTACK SQUADRON?
YES, HIS NAME IS BORIS.
HE USED TO BE A MAJOR IN THE ROYAL AIR FORCE AND HE'S EXTREMELY GIFTED IN GROUND ATTACKS.
REALLY?
I HEARD HE KEEPS THE LIGHTS ON WHILE HE SLEEPS. IS THAT TRUE?
YEAH HE TOLD ME HE WAS AFRAID OF THE DARK BECAUSE HE'S ENTERED A WORLD OF DARKNESS THAT HE CANT ESCAPE FROM.
SHEESH! ANOTHER WEIRDO!
THERE ARE A LOT OF MEN HERE WITH UNUSUAL PASTS THIS IS A MERCENARY AIR FORCE.

SHIN, LAD. I SEE YOU ARE STILL ALIVE AND KICKING TODAY
HELLO, McCOY. WHAT'S THE MATTER? AREN'T YOU GLAD TO BE ALIVE, TOO?
WHO, ME? BUT OF COURSE I AM, SHIN, ME BOY! I'LL BE AROUND THIS WORLD FOR A LONG TIME, A LONG TIME.
HEY, GRANDDAD! HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO SLEEP NIGHTS, SELLING US WEAPONS LIKE THIS? I'D BE WORRIED ABOUT TASTING HELLFIRE AT YOUR AGE.
THIS IS AREA 88, BOY. THIS IS HELL! AND WHAT WORSE PLACE IS THERE THAN HELL ITSELF, PRAY TELL?
BY THE WAY, I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE COME UPON SOME CHEAP SIDEWINDERS. YOU WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED, BY ANY CHANCE, WOULD YOU?
HEH, HEH, HEH. I KNOW YOU...YOUR NAME'S MICK, ISN'T IT?
HE'S RIGHT, MICK. BY THE WAY, McCOY.. JUST HOW CHEAP ARE THESE SIDEWINDERS OF YOURS?
I'LL LET YOU HAVE 50 OF THEM FOR A THOUSAND DOLLARS, HOW'S THAT, THEN?
TWENTY DOLLARS EACH? THAT'S PRACTICALLY GIVING THEM AWAY.
ARE THEY DEFECTIVE OR SOMETHING?
I CAN'T RISK FLYING INTO COMBAT WITH MISSILES THAT DON'T FLY.
DON'T BE BLOODY STUPID! HAVE I EVER SOLD YOU A MISSILE THAT DOESN'T FLY?! HAVE I?!

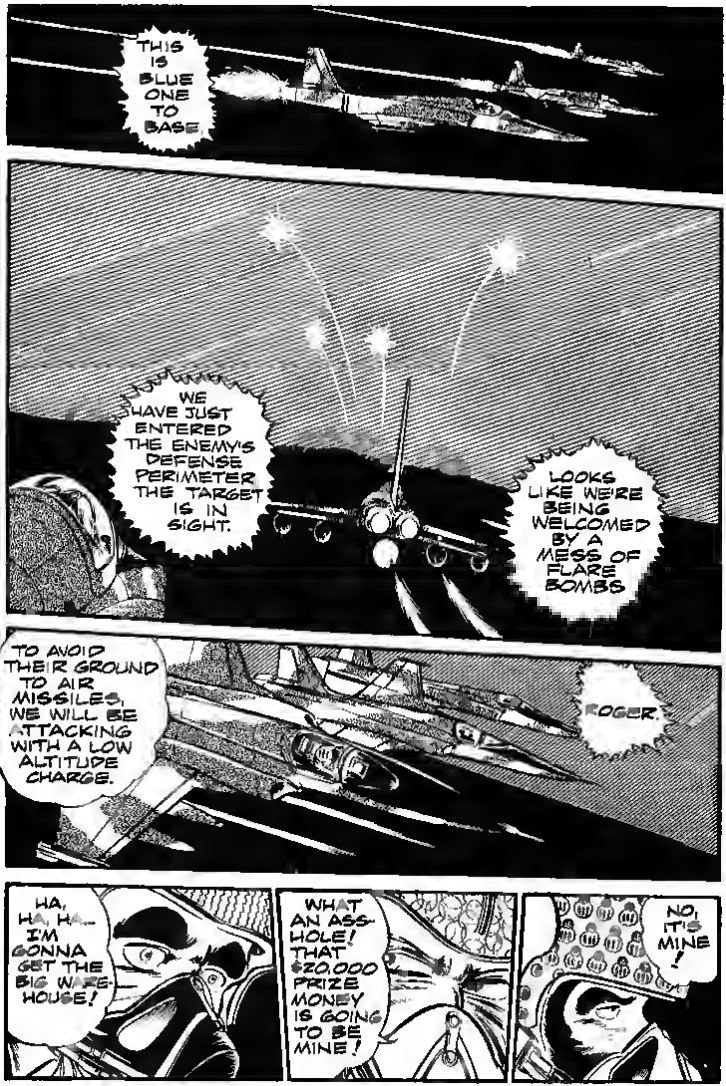
THERE WAS ONE YOU SOLD THAT FLEW VERY WELL. IT MERELY FAILED TO EXPLODE
BORIS! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M TRYING TO DO BUSINESS HERE?
EVEN IF IT HITS THE TARGET, IF IT DOESN'T EXPLODE IT'S JUST A WASTED SHOT. AND THAT'S DANGEROUS.
NOT THESE MISSILES. THERE MIGHT BE A FEW LIKE THAT, BUT NOT ALL OF THEM.
SORRY, McCOY, BUT I'M NOT INTERESTED ANYMORE.
OH, NO...
HEY, BORIS! WHAT ON EARTH'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?! DO YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF GRUDGE AGAINST ME?!
WHEN WE ARE OUT THERE, WE ARE RISKING OUR LIVES
ANY MISFIRE IS FATAL FOR US. DON'T TAKE IT SO HARSHLY, McCOY.
SHIT! DAMN YOU, BORIS!!
HA, HA, HA...
IT IS SAFE TO DEAL WITH ME! IT BLOODY WELL IS, AND YOU KNOW IT!
YO, McCOY!
WHAT?!

THE SUN'S GOING DOWN... IT'S 20:30.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!
HYUUNNEEE
00
DANGER

SH
HRREEED
BLUE ONE TAKE OFF!
TOWER TO BLUE TWO.. YOU ARE CLEARED FOR TAKE OFF UPON REACHING THE ACTIVE RUNWAY.
KYUUUUUUUUUU
00
FULL POWER!
AFTER-BURN IS ON!
ROA
A

HY YUUUUUNN
00
GO!

SHH...
SHIN, DO YOU THINK WE'LL ENGAGE ANY ENEMY FIGHTERS TONIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW, MICK. OUR TARGET IS A SUPPLY BASE LOADED WITH ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES.
00
I WOULDN'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT THEIR JETS. WHEN THEY HAVE GROUND TO AIR MISSILES, THEY RARELY CALL UPON THEIR AIR STRIKE CAPABILITIES
NOW...STANDBY TO DESCEND, GENTLEMEN. WE DON'T WANT TO ENCOUNTER ANY OF THOSE MISSILES, RIGHT?
80
BORIS ...
SZZZWWOOO

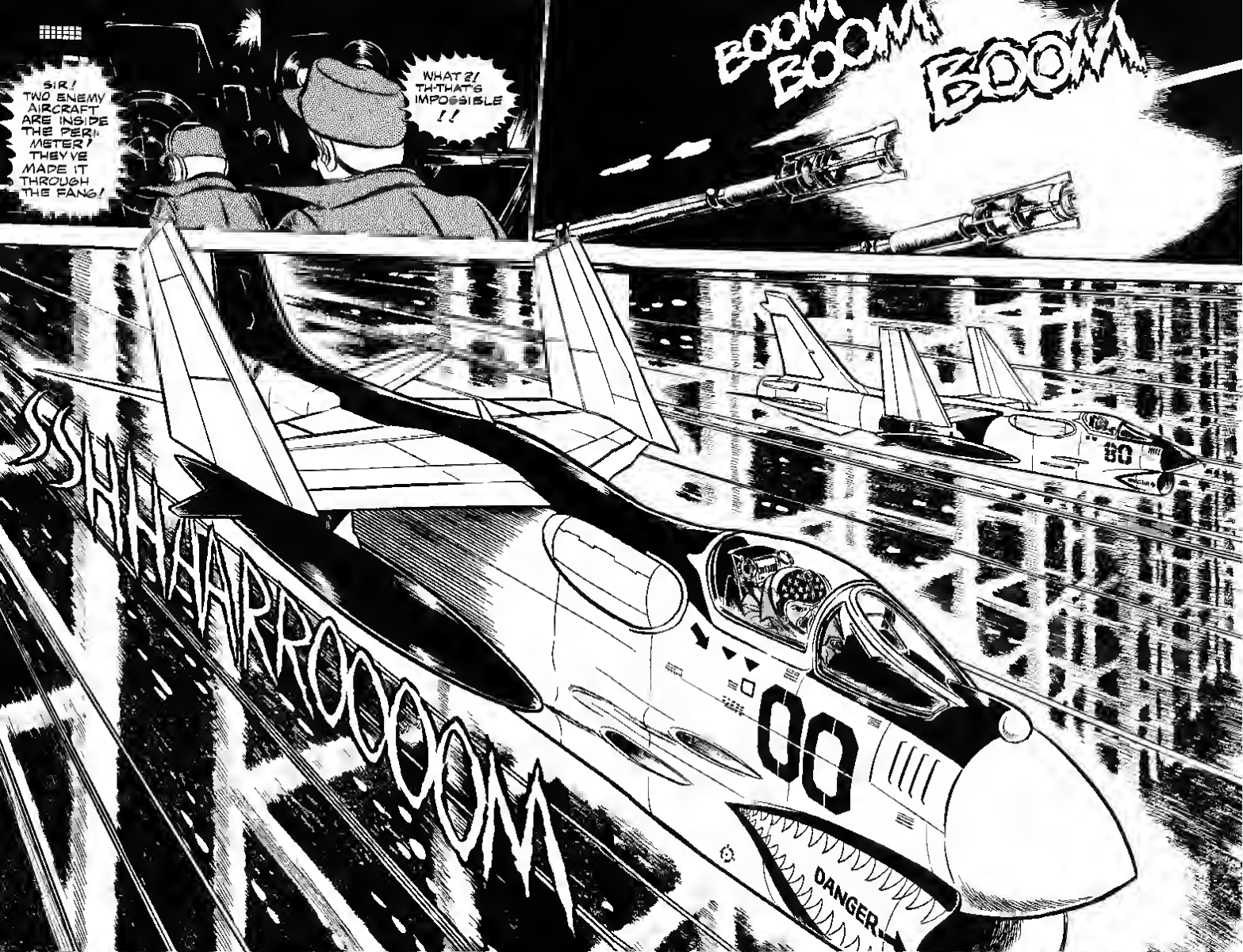

THIS IS BLUE ONE TO BASE.
WE HAVE JUST ENTERED THE ENEMY'S DEFENSE PERIMETER THE TARGET IS IN SIGHT.
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE BEING WELCOMED BY A MESS OF FLARE BOMBS
TO AVOID THEIR GROUND TO AIR MISSILES, WE WILL BE ATTACKING WITH A LOW ALTITUDE CHARGE.
ROGER.
HA, HA, HA... I'M GONNA GET THE BIG WAFE-HOUSE!
WHAT AN ASS-HOLE! THAT ¥20,000 PRIZE MONEY IS GOING TO BE MINE!
NO, IT'S MINE!

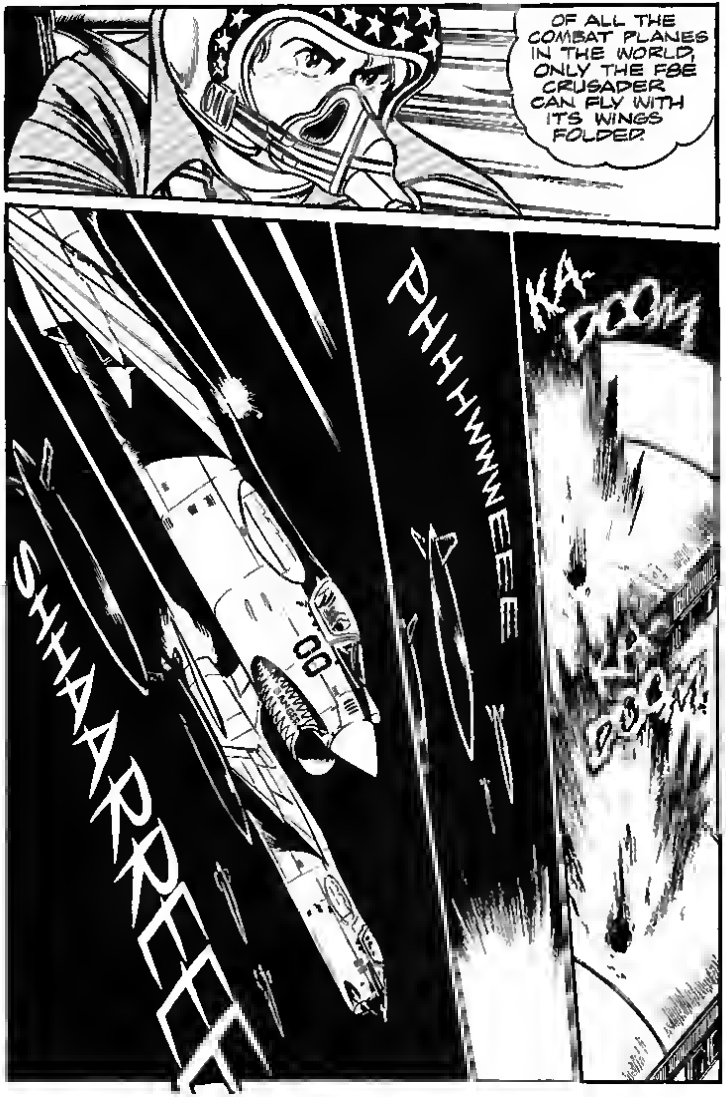
SHEEEE
ATTACK!!
KA-SHANK
OH, LORD... PLEASE GIVE ME THAT TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS!
AMEN.
HA, HA, HA, HA...

ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENTERING THE PERIMETER AT LOW ALTITUDE. LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE DOING MACH ONE!
IMPRESSIVE. MOST IMPRESSIVE. THEY MUST BE THOSE MERCENARY PILOTS WE'VE BEEN DEALING WITH OF LATE.
WE CAN'T LET THEM COME ANY FURTHER!
RELEASE THE FANG!!
REEE
FANG RELEASED!!
DISCHARGE
OH!K

KA-SHOOM
HOLY CHRIST!!

BA-KOOM
KA-WHOOMP
SSSS


SIR! TWO ENEMY AIRCRAFT ARE INSIDE THE PERIMETER! THEY'VE MADE IT THROUGH THE FANG!
WHAT?! TH-THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!
BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!
SSHHHARROOOM
00
DANGER


OF ALL THE COMBAT PLANES IN THE WORLD, ONLY THE F8E CRUSADER CAN FLY WITH ITS WINGS FOLDED.
KA-DOOM
PHHHWWWEEE
SHHAARREEE

KRAKABLAAAAA
WE DID IT!

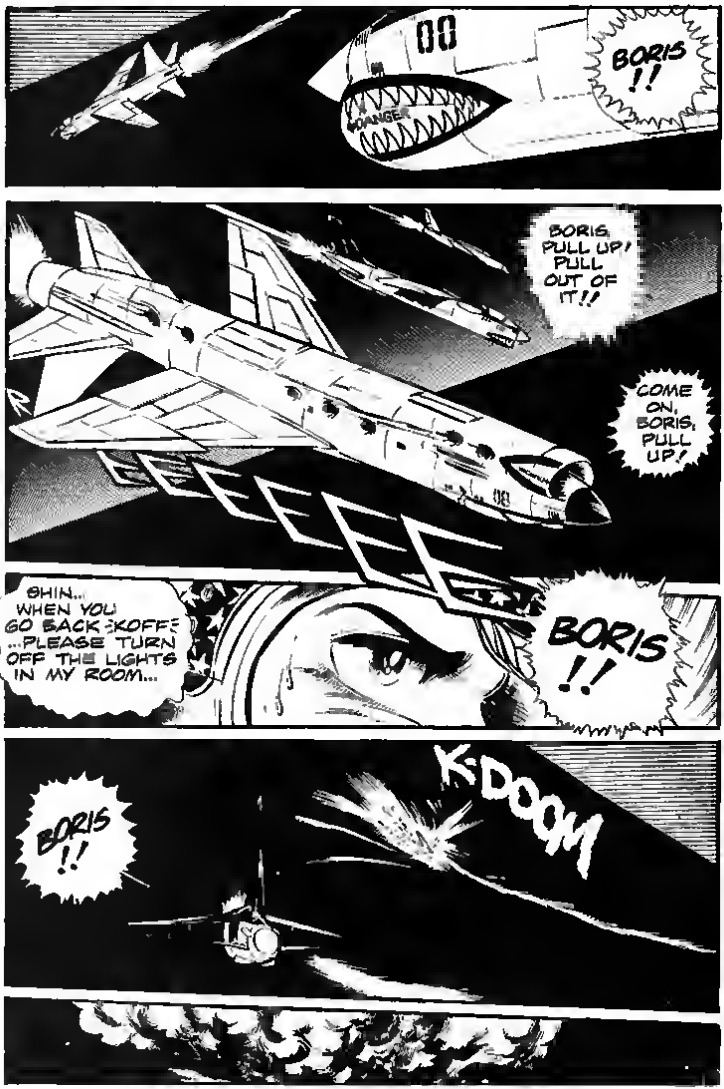
BOOM
WHAT THE...

SOLDIER
MAN, AM I TIRED.
HEY, MICK! NICE WORK!
MICK WERE YOU DEFENDING US FROM ABOVE?
YEAH, I LET YOU GUYS GO AFTER THE BIG TARGET WHILE I STAYED UP HIGH AND CAUGHT SOME FLIES.
YOU OUGHTA THANK ME A LITTLE.
NO WONDER...IT WAS YOU WHO KEPT THE HEAT OFF WHILE WE WERE COMING IN. NO ONE ATTACKED US.. EVEN WHEN WE WERE FLYING AT LOW SPEED WITH OUR WINGS FOLDED.
03
I WANT TO THANK YOU, MICK.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, I THINK WE SHOULD DIVIDE THE $20,000 AMONG THE THREE OF US.
.....
NO...WE CAN'T... THE MONEY WILL BE SPLIT IN HALF.
BORIS! WE MANAGED TO HIT THIS TARGET BECAUSE OF MICK'S HELP!
THAT'S OKAY, SHIN. IF HE'S GONNA BE SUCH A STINGY GUY, I DON'T WANT THE MONEY.
IF IT WASN'T FOR HIM, WE'D BE BURNING ON THE GROUND BACK THERE!
BESIDES, IT'S ONLY A MEASLY SIX GRAND.
BORIS, YOU CAN HAVE ALL OF IT IF THAT'S YOUR ATTITUDE.
I'M NOT TAKING THE MONEY EITHER! I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE ANY OF IT IF IT MEANS IGNORING THE HELP THAT MICK GAVE US!
HUH HUH HA HA HA

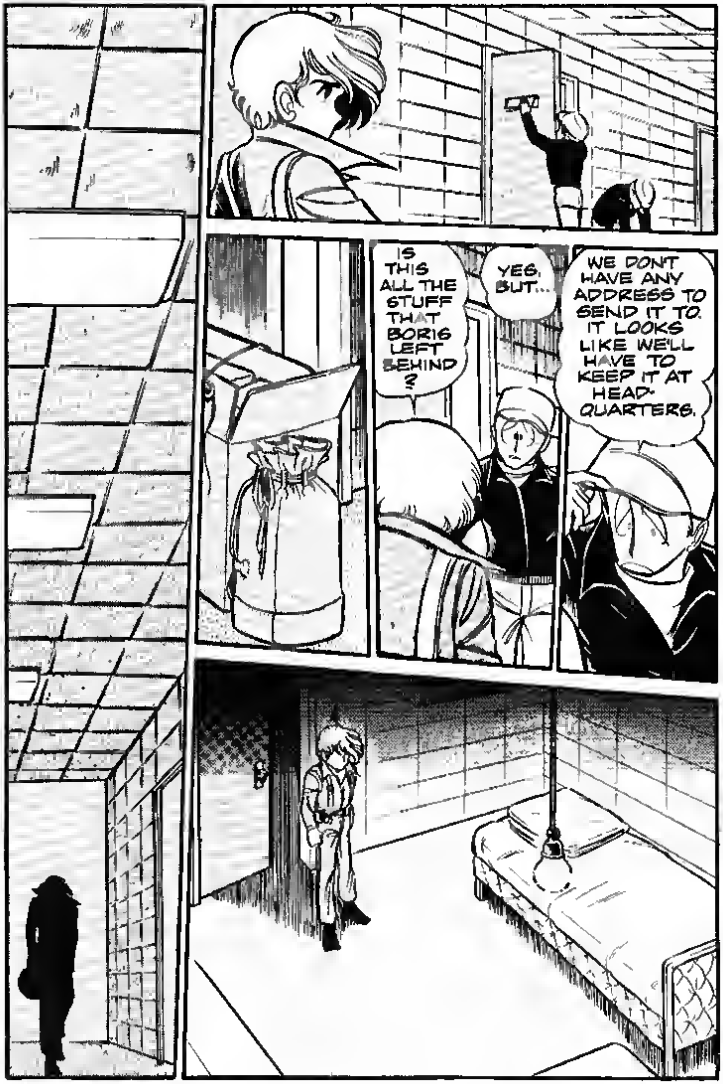
:KOFF: YOU GUYS ARE STUPID JUMPING TO THE WRONG CONCLUSION LIKE THAT. HA, HA
WHEN I SAID IT SHOULD BE SPLIT IN HALF, I MEANT BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU. :KOFF:
!!
?!
WHEN THOSE ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS STARTED FIRING AT US, A COUPLE OF ROUNDS HIT MY PLANE...
I CAUGHT ONE OF THEM IN THE CHEST. :KOFF: I THINK IT GOT A LUNG. :KOFF: THE OTHERS :KOFF: WENT INTO THE ENGINE
BORIS !!
:KOFF: IT'S NICE TO HAVE FRIENDS LIKE YOU...
THE OLDER YOU GET, :KOFF: THE MORE YOU REALIZE THAT REAL FRIENDS ARE THE ONES WHO'LL RISK THEIR LIVES WITH YOU :KOFF: :KOFF:

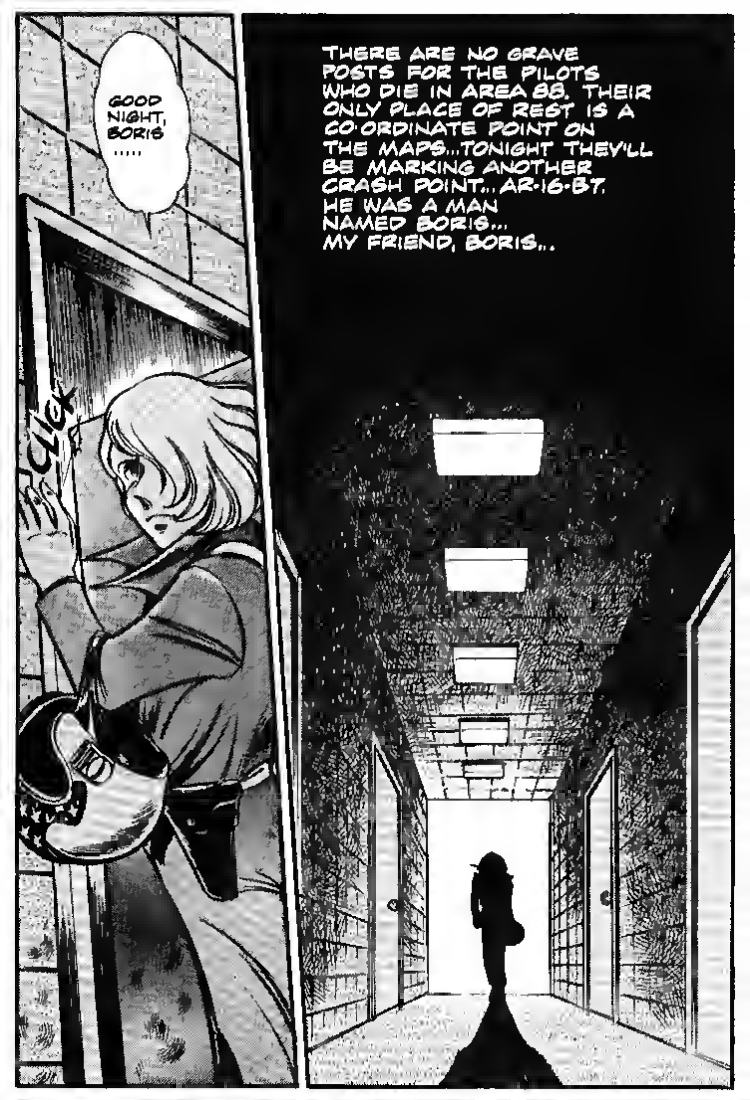
BUT YOU ONLY FIND THESE FRIENDS WHEN ONE OF YOU :KOFF: IS ABOUT TO DIE. :KOFF: THAT'S WAR.. :KOFF: ...THAT'S LIFE.
IT'S SAD... HAVING YOUR FRIENDS DIE AROUND YOU :KOFF: AND ENDING UP BEING ALONE.
SO I :KOFF: DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE ANY FRIENDS...
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF BEING ALONE, OF HAVING THAT SPECIAL LONELINESS THAT ONLY SURVIVORS HAVE.
WHENEVER I SLEEP IN A DARK ROOM, :KOFF: MY FRIENDS, THE FACES OF MY DEAD FRIENDS, :KOFF: APPEAR ONE BY ONE... THEY SAY, "HEY, BORIS, HOW ARE YOU DOING?"
NOW, I GUESS IT'S OVER... :KOFF:
IT SEEMS THAT I'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO REST IN PEACE...


00
BOINGG
BORIS !!
BORIS, PULL UP! PULL OUT OF IT!!
COME ON, BORIS, PULL UP!
SHIN... WHEN YOU GO BACK TO KOFFE ...PLEASE TURN OFF THE LIGHTS IN MY ROOM...
BORIS !!
BORIS !!
K-DOOM

DOAYIT
ZHUCIO
GOOD WORK, SHIN. THE ENEMY TROOPS RETREATED FROM THE FRONT LINE ONCE YOU DESTROYED THEIR BASE. THEY CAN'T GET THEIR SUPPLIES FROM THERE ANYMORE.
SAKI ...

THE NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT USED IN THIS SORTIE WAS 15 OF THESE, EIGHT HAVE NOT RETURNED...
THE NEXT OPERATION WILL TAKE PLACE THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
OK...
WELL, HE SURE ISN'T VERY SOCIABLE...
NOW I'VE GOT A BONE TO PICK WITH THAT LITTLE WEASEL, McCOY.
OH? DID HE SELL YOU SOME DEFECTIVE EQUIPMENT?
YEAH, I BOUGHT SOME OF THOSE CHEAP SIDEWINDERS, BUT ...
THEY DIDN'T EXPLODE, RIGHT?
HA! OH, THEY EXPLODED, ALL RIGHT!
THEN WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE FUSE, AND IT EXPLODED BEFORE IT HIT THE TARGET!
THE DAMN THING BLEW UP WHEN IT WAS 300 FEET AWAY! WHAT A RIP-OFF!


IS THIS ALL THE STUFF THAT BORIS LEFT BEHIND?
YES, BUT...
WE DON'T HAVE ANY ADDRESS TO SEND IT TO. IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP IT AT HEADQUARTERS.


GOOD NIGHT, BORIS .....
Click
THERE ARE NO GRAVE POSTS FOR THE PILOTS WHO DIE IN AREA 88. THEIR ONLY PLACE OF REST IS A CO-ORDINATE POINT ON THE MAPS...TONIGHT THEY'LL BE MARKING ANOTHER CRASH POINT... AR-16-BT. HE WAS A MAN NAMED BORIS... MY FRIEND, BORIS...